

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
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A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
Senate Committee on Labor & Government Operations

Thursday, March 14, 2024
9:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

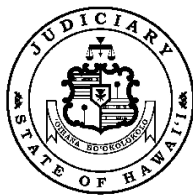
In consideration of
SB2288, SD2
RELATING TO GOVERNMENT

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** SB2288, SD2, which (1) generally requires that travel reports submitted by state employees, officers, or other representatives of state departments or agencies, in connection with out-of-state or intra-state travel for purposes of official state business, be made available for public review on the Comptroller's website, (2) requires any personally identifiable information to be redacted from each published report and (3) provides certain exceptions relating to law enforcement, off-island travel, confidentiality, and board and commission meetings

DBEDT agrees that business travel reports should be made available to the public, so Departments are transparent, showing accountability and that they are good stewards of public tax dollars. Travel reports should include the state benefits and knowledge gained as a result of the trip, while ensuring that this information is easily accessible by others in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

**Testimony to the Thirty-Second State Legislature
2024 Regular Session**

Testimony to the House Committee on Labor and Government Operations

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Representative Andrew Takuya Garrett, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 9:15 a.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 309

By

Terrence Lee
Staff Attorney

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 2288, SD2, Relating to Government.

Purpose: Generally requires that travel reports submitted by state employees, officers, or other representatives of state departments or agencies, in connection with out-of-state or intra-state travel for purposes of official state business, be made available for public review on the Comptroller's website. Requires any personally identifiable information to be redacted from each published report. Provides certain exceptions relating to law enforcement, off-island travel, confidentiality, and board and commission meetings. Appropriates moneys.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary respectfully offers the following comments and recommendations regarding Senate Bill No. 2288, SD2.

This measure requires any travel report submitted in connection with out-of-state or intra-state travel for official state business to be made available for public review on the Comptroller's website. The measure exempts certain categories of travel, and includes a provision stating that reports "relating to off-island travel need only be made available on the comptroller's website if

the travel was for a non-essential purpose" (Page 2, lines 14-16). However, "non-essential" travel is not defined in the measure.

The Judiciary suggests that the bill be amended to specifically exempt the following types of travel pertaining to the business of the courts:

- (1) **Interisland travel by judiciary personnel to conduct court proceedings.** State trial judges regularly travel to judicial circuits located on other islands to preside over court proceedings in place of judges who have been recused from a case or are otherwise unavailable. Additionally, Supreme Court justices occasionally travel to neighbor islands for oral argument as part of the Judiciary's Courts in the Community program. Other court personnel may travel to other islands to fill personnel needs that may arise in the conduct of proceedings. These temporary assignments are essential to ensuring the continuity of judicial services and the administration of justice. Similar to the exemption the measure provides for intra-island travel by board and commission members to attend meetings (page 3, lines 3-5), this type of travel is part of the regular business of the courts that does not seem to warrant the online publication of travel reports.
- (2) **Out-of-state and interisland travel undertaken by judges for judicial education and other training opportunities.** Judges participate in out-of-state and interisland education and training opportunities to keep abreast of changes in the law and enhance their skills in decision-making, case management, communication, and other areas involving both legal and non-legal issues. These trainings also assist full-time state judges in complying with continuing judicial education requirements pursuant to Rule 22(h) of the Rules of the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i. The Judiciary is committed to providing these travel opportunities related to continuing judicial education, to ensure the provision of judicial services of the highest quality to the citizens of Hawai'i.

Accordingly, the Judiciary proposes that the Committee incorporate the following amendments to paragraph (5) on page 2, line 17 through page 3, line 5 of the measure (changes indicated in bold type):

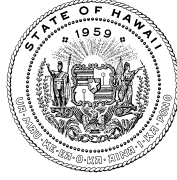
"(5) A travel report need not be made available on the comptroller's website if the travel was:

- (A) Necessitated by due process compliance, litigation, prosecution, or a student referral or placement that requires confidentiality of the travel event;
- (B) Only intra-island and was made by a member of a **board or commission** to or from a meeting of that board or commission;
- (C) **Interisland and undertaken by judiciary personnel to conduct a court proceeding; or**

- (D) Out-of-state or interisland and undertaken by a judge or justice for judicial education programs sponsored by the judiciary or other educational or training opportunities approved by the judiciary as official business."**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2288, SD2.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWÉ LAULĀ
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

MARCH 14, 2024, 9:15 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 309 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 2288, S.D. 2

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT.

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2288, S.D. 2.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** this bill requiring reports of out-of-state and intra-state travel by state employees, officers, or other representatives to be made available for public review. DAGS is supportive of a government that is open and transparent and, as such, we support the intent of the measure to make travel reports accessible for public review.

The State of Hawaii's Open Data portal (opendata.hawaii.gov), which provides a convenient tool to enhance open government, transparency, and accountability by improving

access to data, is an appropriate site for the reporting of travel data. The Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) provides the platform as an enterprise shared service and can assist with department user access and training. We look forward to working with ETS to develop the appropriate dataset and means for departments to upload travel data to the portal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this matter.